

Children's Behavioral Health System State Board  
May 11, 2021 9:00am – 2:00pm  
Virtual Zoom Meeting  
MEETING MINUTES – Draft Pending Board Approval

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**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Kelly Garcia (co-chair)	Senator Liz Mathis
Brad Niebling (co-chair)	Carol Meade
Andrew Allen	Mary Neubauer
Darci Alt	Dr. Nate Noble
Representative Timi Brown-Powers	Okpara Rice
Dan Cox	Beth Townsend
Scott Hobart	Shanell Wagler
Peggy Huppert	Richard Whitaker
Nalo Johnson	

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Melanie Cleveringa	Representative Shannon Lundgren
Senator Jeff Edler	Jason Sandholdt

**OTHER ATTENDEES:**

Julie Albright	Britney Hicken
Marilyn Altoff	Matt Highland
Barb Anderson	Mae Hingtgen
Theresa Armstrong	Tashina Hornaday
Tasha Beghtol	Misti Johnson
Kris Bell	Marcus Johnson-Miller
Teresa Bomhoff	Bill Kallestad
Steve Bowen	Nathan Kirstein
Kenneth Briggs	June Klein-Bacon
Lisa Bringle	Mona Krugger
Joyce Bruce	Todd Lange
Representative Dennis Bush	Laura Larkin
Rachel Cecil	Megan Logan
Rhonda Chittenden	Mary Madd
Morgan Christensen	Carrie Malone
Jacque Coulson	Liz Matney
Liz Cox	Leisa Mayer
Wendy DePhillips	Robin McKee
Erin Drinnin	Vickie Miene
Linda Duffy	Cynthia Miller
Bethany Ellingson	Erin Monaghan
Caryn Evans	Greg Nelson
Marissa Eyanson	Sharon Nieman
Louise Galbraith	Tammy Nyden
Vicki Gassman	Kristie Oliver
Julie Gibbons	Hannah Olson
Tami Gilliland	Brittany Palmer
Emma Hall	John Parmeter
Jennifer Harbison	Analisa Pearson

Jay Pennington  
Rhonda Rairden-Nelson  
Denise Rathman  
Jennifer Robbins  
Kristin Rozeboom  
Faith Sandberg-Rodriguez  
Flora Schmidt  
Debra Schrader  
Sandy Swanson  
Lynae D M D Tesdall

Kelsey Thien  
Michele Tilotta  
Suzanne Watson  
Jen Weidman  
Carlye Wellman  
Tammy Wetjen-Kesterson  
Sue Whitty  
Ryenne Wood  
Russell Wood  
Chaney Yeast

## **MATERIALS REFERENCED:**

*March 9, 2021 Meeting Minutes*

*Children's Board Metrics 5.11.21*

*Universal Screening Update*

*Office of Statewide Clinical Education Programs (OSCEP) Clinical Workforce Overview*

*Children's Board Workforce Subcommittee Recommendations*

*MHDS Regions Statewide Dashboard SFY2021Q2 – Children's Services*

*By the Numbers - The Story of Youth Mental Health Disparities in Iowa*

*Children's Meeting Topic Workplan*

## **Welcome and Introductions**

Brad Niebling called the meeting to order at 9:02 am and thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Quorum was established with seventeen members present virtually.

## **Review & Vote on Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Andrew Allen made a motion to approve the March 9, 2021 meeting minutes. Richard Whitaker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **Director & Legislative Updates**

Brad Niebling updated the Board about the Conditions for Learning Survey which is currently being administered by the Department of Education (DoE). This survey used to be a part of the Iowa Youth Survey with questions specific to student perspective on the climate and culture of their learning including peer-to-peer relationships, student-teacher relationships, emotional safety, and other items. The information is collected anonymously and is part of DOE's Every Student Succeeds Act plan. More information can be found on the DoE website at <https://educateiowa.gov/pk-12/every-student-succeeds-act/conditions-learning-cfl>. The survey opened April 5, 2021 and closes May 28, 2021. DoE will not be using the data to make any designations this year, which is different than in the past. This is part of the relief that the U.S. Department of Education provided states. There are also optional parent and teacher surveys available.

Brad Niebling provided an update on the therapeutic classroom grants which were part of SF2360 from last legislative session. These grants provide funds to school districts to start up or expand therapeutic classrooms. The application window closed on April 30, 2021 with 26 public school districts applying. The goal is to announce the awards at the end of May, and distribute the funds by August 1, 2021. More information about these grants can be found on the DoE website at: <https://educateiowa.gov/pk-12/learner-supports/therapeutic-classroom-grant>.

Brad Niebling updated the Board regarding the second round of the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEER II). The Governor has allocated approximately \$8.5M towards mental health,

specifically for competitive grants for PK-12 districts that have been most significantly impacted by COVID-19 to provide mental health supports in schools including: coordination and delivery of mental health, wraparound supports, Youth Mental Health First Aid and implementation and suicide prevention services and programming. More information about this round of funding can be found on the DoE website at: [https://educateiowa.gov/sites/files/ed/documents/2021-04-30\\_GEER\\_II\\_AppGuidance.pdf](https://educateiowa.gov/sites/files/ed/documents/2021-04-30_GEER_II_AppGuidance.pdf). Applications open up May 1, 2021 and will close at the end of May.

Marissa Eyanson updated the Board regarding the expansion of vaccinations issued by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) which expands the age of Pfizer vaccinations to children ages 12-15. There was discussion regarding data or information regarding the safety of the expanding vaccinations to this new age group. It was noted that there is an information sheet available from the CDC with information and frequently answered questions, which will be distributed.

Marissa Eyanson updated the Board on the DHS and IDPH program alignment progress noting that there was a kickoff meeting a couple weeks ago. Public Consulting Group has been secured as the vendor for this contract, and has been working towards establishing how the work will be done, including how long this process is going to take and what can be expected moving forward. The project plan will include creating milestones and a connections point report, which will identify those spaces that live in different departments or divisions within those departments that have functional connection in the work that they do that may need to be brought closer together. Stakeholder engagement and feedback will be a critical part of the effort. Specifically looking at the impact on social determinates of health, how to coordinate and integrate care for high-utilizers of services, ensuring a no wrong door approach that streamlines entry points for customers as many access services out of multiple spaces (SNAP, WIC, Medicaid, etc.), as well as a focus on intervention and prevention. The plan will also focus on leveraging federal funds and internal resources by looking at duplicative effort in order to synergize the work that is done and making sure to focus on a whole-person continuum of care.

The Board discussed the idea of developing a children's mental health bill of rights, noting that the juvenile justice system does have a children's bill of rights that could be used to help.

Marissa Eyanson provided the Board information on current legislative session specifically the compromised budget proposal put forth by the Governor that includes a comprehensive mental health package which discusses funding primarily where growth is built into the funding which will be predictable and sustainable. Focus on rewarding regions for their performance through an incentive fund to help get Iowans access to high quality services while maintaining local operational control of regions. Legislation includes payment parity for mental health service providers for telehealth services.

The Board had conversations regarding if funding was going to be available for creating a rate review team. It was noted that some progress has been made with additional staff being hired for the Medicaid team that will assist in looking at rates. The Board also discussed looking at the effectiveness of children's services within the regions as a possible board agenda item.

The Board discussed SSB1276, the omnibus bill which includes mental health funding and property tax and expressed support and concerns regarding the change in mental health funding. There was discussion regarding county levies, fund balances, and the regional incentive fund created in the legislation and performance-based contracts with the regions. The Board noted that a larger discussion would be needed at the next meeting if legislation moves forward.

### **Metrics Subcommittee Update**

Brad Niebling and Jay Pennington, Iowa Department of Education, reviewed a PowerPoint presentation of the Children's Board Metrics Subcommittee. The presentation included an overview of the top 10

metrics, and a review of the top priority metric, “Increase in access to comprehensive, coordinated treatment and supports” as well as baseline information collected and analyzed related to this metric, and proposed next steps for the subcommittee.

The Board discussed breaking out the costs by services, and where the cost breaks out by region. The Board discussed the possibility that some metrics could illustrate a disproportionate minority contact (DMC) issue related to the low numbers for African-American youth and their over-representation in juvenile justice, which could indicate implicit bias when addressing these populations, and the possible for subgroup analysis. The Board also discussed having expert interpretation to show trends in Iowa versus national trends, which could help with informing the Board’s recommendations.

### **Progress on Screenings**

Marcus Johnson-Miller, Iowa Department of Public Health, shared a PowerPoint presentation update on universal screenings reviewing the goals and recommendations of the Children’s Board’s Universal Screening Workgroup as well as the key activities since the last update and information on 1<sup>st</sup> Five Health Mental Development Initiative and how it supports universal screenings.

The Board discussed if there other tools effective for kids older than five years and if that information could be shared with the Board.

### **Mental Health Workforce Recommendations and Clinical Workforce Presentation**

Greg Nelson, Director/Assistant Dean, from the Iowa Health Professions Tracking Center in the Office of Statewide Clinical Education Programs (OSCEP) with the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine presented an overview of the mental health workforce in Iowa, specifically as it relates to Physicians (Psychiatrists), Psychologists, Physician Assistants, and Advanced Nurse Practitioners, including distribution of mental health professionals across the state, age and gender analysis of mental professionals in Iowa, why psychiatrists leave Iowa, and psychiatric residency programs in Iowa.

The Board had conversations regarding incentives to get psychiatrists to stay in Iowa as well programs to increase diversity in practitioners.

Beth Townsend, Director of Iowa Workforce Development, presented the recommendations previously developed by the Workforce Subcommittee and noted that the subcommittee hasn’t been able to meet since they were last presented so there haven’t been any changes, however the subcommittee will likely meet this summer to take a look at the subcommittee recommendations and make any necessary changes as well as create or establish some legislative priorities with regards to workforce. Beth also updated the Board that at the end of 2020 the Governor provided Iowa Workforce Development with \$16.5M in coronavirus relief funds, which went to workforce training programs in the community. Approximately \$3M went to training direct care workers, which was a big increase in funds to those programs. There has been continued interest in those programs. IWD also funded a couple more programs in the Employer Innovation Fund for 2021 and hope to do more with the second round of coronavirus relief funds. Hope to use some of those funds to create workforce training programs that come with wraparound services that target industries that need the most help.

The Board discussed providers competing with private practice for psychiatrists and whether or not there are grant programs for providers to maintain or retain psychiatrists. There was conversations regarding the average salaries for psychiatrists both in Iowa and nationally as well as creating an intentional effort with regards to recruiting and retaining these professionals.

## **Break for Lunch**

The Board broke for lunch from 11:47 am to 12:17 pm.

## **Regional Update on Children's Services**

Darci Alt, CEO of Heart of Iowa Community Services Region, shared a presentation on the data collection and progress on implementation of children's services across the state entitled, "MHDS Statewide Regions Dashboard SFY2021Q2 – Children's Services." Darci informed the Board that some additional things that the Regions are engaged in include; an AEA summit in June, training for regional children's coordinators, campaigns to reduce stigma, resource mapping, and the Handle with Care Initiative, which is a model out of West Virginia.

The Board had conversations on workforce and wages specifically with regards to direct care work including developing a "pipeline into human services" for middle school and high school students that will assist in developing and expanding the current direct care workforce. There was additional discussion regarding measurement of children's outcomes, specifically with regards to a national pilot project that three regions have been invited to participate in, as well as the need to utilize data-driven decision-making to figure out where the gaps are, and how to mitigate them, including developing partnerships, and engagement with constituency groups. There was discussion regarding crisis services specifically mobile crisis and crisis stabilization, including the current program available in the CICS Region, as well as the resource and referral responsibilities of the regions.

## **Youth Risk Behavior and Iowa Youth Survey**

Rhonda Chittenden, Iowa Department of Public Health, introduced herself and shared the PowerPoint presentation, "By the Numbers – The Story of Youth Mental Health Disparities in Iowa." The PowerPoint reviews data outcomes of the 2018 Iowa Youth Survey (IYS) and 2019 Iowa Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS). Rhonda indicated that due to the Governor's emergency declaration regarding the pandemic, IDPH did not distribute the IYS and YRBS in 2020, but would be doing so for the 2021 school year.

The Board had conversations regarding reasons why schools don't participate and ways to improve participation moving forward, as well as the concern regarding the substantial statistical increase in the LGB community.

## **Planning for Future Meetings**

Marissa Eyanson reviewed the most recent version of the Children's Meeting Topic Workplan, which include a couple items that were added since the last meeting. Marissa noted that these potential agenda items came from feedback received from Board members. The two potential agenda items include input from school counselors regarding children's mental health, and the possibility of the Board engaging in strategic planning to develop intentional goals and actionable steps that the Board can take moving forward, including development of additional workgroups. The Board decided to add strategic planning as an agenda item for the July meeting.

The Board requested to look at the possibility of decoupling the children's mental health system from the adult system with regards to Integrated Health Homes (IHH), Community Mental Health Centers (CMHCs) and the Iowa Provider Network (IPN) specifically looking at the funding for IHH, and the possibly creating an incentive for specialty providers for kids with relation to CMHCs and the IPN, as these programs as they currently stand do not allow for these specialty providers.

The Board discussed revisiting the topic of assessment centers and urgent care for youth in order to give families real options. The Board noted that kids are getting stuck in emergency departments,

specifically those kids with more complex needs (intellectual disability, autism spectrum disability, juvenile justice issues), as there is no place for them to go. The Board also discussed having another parent panel discussion, however requested that it be a part of the regular meeting, and not scheduled separately.

The Board requested to continue the conversation on workforce recommendations at the July meeting, as well discuss the possible changes to mental health funding currently being considered in the legislature and what the timing of that transition will look like. The Board also discussed the need to look at the current system structure that penalizes parents who reach out for help, early intervention strategies to ensure we are getting the right treatment to the right kids at the right time, a presentation on multi-systemic therapy, developing a children's bill of rights with regards to mental health, and holding a youth panel to allow kids to share their experiences with accessing services.

### **Public Comment**

Ken Briggs expressed concern regarding the LGBTQ community and the negative impact of the current political environment on their mental health.

Tammy Nyden expressed concern regarding the turnover of DHS case managers and the lack of communication with parents about this change, issues concerning kids transitioning to the adult system and the need to gather data with regards to police interactions in inpatient, residential and emergency departments. Tammy noted that it is important to look at police interactions with regards to crisis services, but that data should also be collected for these other interactions.

Steve Bowen, President, Iowa Occupational Therapy Association (IOTA), noted that they are very excited about the work that the Children's Board is doing and that IOTA and occupational therapists are eager to help in way that they can as they feel the occupational perspective is essential to these conversations.

Russell Wood, CEO, CICS Region questioned if the Children's Board's report included recommendations on service development or types of service, and stated that if it didn't the Board should consider including it. Russell also noted that the Board should vocalize these recommendations during the regular board meetings as Regional CEOs and regional representative attend these meetings, and are always looking at service development.

### **Adjourn**

Marissa Eyanson and Brad Niebling thanked the Board and the public for their participation during the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Wendy DePhillips.